The Unwritten
CN!
Tommy Taylor
FACTION
THE PUCK
WILSON
BORN TO BE
stories are the only thing worth writing about

A Novel Approach

Many famous people have had their life stories told in book form. Some unknowns have become famous once their life stories were told in book form.

But Tom Taylor, the protagonist of ***The Unwritten,*** became famous when his life story was replaced in book form by a work of fantasy that proved immensely popular. It was a remarkable story, filled with magic and adventure... but it wasn't his.

Or maybe it was...

The Unwritten, a new ongoing Vertigo series by *Mike Carey & Peter Gross* (the team responsible for the acclaimed Vertigo series ***Lucifer),*** focuses on a man who discovers that the supposedly fictional adventures of a character with whom he shares a name aren't fiction at all.

Cary explained the premise of the series. "A British writer, Wilson Taylor, has produced the most successful series of novels ever - the adventures of a boy wizard named Tommy Taylor. This character was very clearly based on—and named after—Wilson's son, Tom. Tom has grown up with this burden: the burden of being world famous, but as a fictional character. He's tried to make his own way in the world, but he's failed, and ended up making a living on the convention and festival circuit, signing his father's books. Now, as an adult, he's confronted by the horrifying possibility that he might actually be the fictional Tommy, somehow made flesh. That's a bare-bones summary. There's also a secret cabal who are trying to kill Tom for reasons of their own, a guy who thinks he's a vampire, and a secret about storytelling that goes back to the dawn of human civilization. We've cast our net pretty wide..."

Obviously the story of boy wizard Tommy Taylor is inspired in part by the best-selling exploits of one Harry Potter. Just how similar *are* Harry Potter and Tommy Taylor? "Well, Harry Potter is one instance of a fictional type," Carey said. "Boy wizards and teen witches have been around for a long time, and *Peter Gross*, the artist on this series, both wrote and drew one of the most famous of them—Tim Hunter—for many years. I think we're playing to that type, and riffing off it.

"Tommy has many of the features that go with the territory, and his world will be familiar to anyone who has read ***Books of Magic*** or ***Harry Potter***: it's a world of intense friendships, magical artifacts of huge significance, and terrifying enemies who play increasingly hard ball. But we're using these tropes as a launching off point for a very different kind of story - and having a lot of fun with them in the process!"

WELL, MY DAD WOULD HAVE TO SHOW UP AND WRITE IT, FOR STARTERS.
OH. RIGHT.
ISN'T IT WEIRD HOW HE JUST--DIED?
HOW IS LEAVY SUE, VERY WIRED.
HAVE A NICE DIN. NOW.
GREAT. TOM TAYLOR AT THE END OF THE TABLE. THERE?
LOOKS LIKE IT. HEY, TOM, THE GRAVE IS FOR WRITERS.
THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE OF A FICTIONAL CHARACTER, LIKE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN.
AT LEAST I GOT A LINE, CALLBACK. BUT YOU'RE STILL OUT THERE.
SO, I KNOW THIS LINE WAS CRAPPED, BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT YOUR HUNDRED TICKETS.
IS YOU'RE GOING US FOR THE SIGNING, RIGHT? I'LL JOIN YOUR BOOKS RIGHT AFTER.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN THE CIRCLE OF YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY.
HOW LONG IS HE GONNA KEEP HIS DEAD DAD'S COAT, DALE?
LONG AS THERE'S A LIVING IN IT, RAFE. NO ONE 'TAYLOR POINT' DIES, EXACTLY.
HE JUST FADED AWAY.

Does Carey see it as a bit ironic that his comic is going to be linked by many to Harry Potter, when there are many who have asserted that Potter's exploits are heavily derived from the comic book adventures of Tim Hunter in the aforementioned ***Books of Magic?*** "Yeah, it's kind of funny," Carey said. "I go with what *Neil Gaiman* said on this one—or what I believe he said—that literary indebtedness is more complex than that. Genre fiction is a stew, and every writer both takes from and adds to what's in the pot."

"Neil's on record saying that he doesn't think there's anything but a coincidental similarity between ***Books of Magic*** and ***Harry Potter,***" Gross added. "I agree with that. But even in the issues I wrote, I would see similar things showing up in the ***Harry Potter*** books. I think when you get that boy wizard vibe going, it leads to certain similar story ideas. And yes, I'm drawing inspiration from ***Books of Magic*** and using the look of Tim as the starting point for Tommy. Tim Hunter (in hindsight) is interesting because he was done with no knowledge of Harry Potter, because Harry Potter wasn't yet published. But Tommy is very much a post-Harry character--a boy wizard informed by the ***Harry Potter*** success and publishing phenomenon."

Are there any visual similarities between Tommy Taylor and Harry Potter? "After 75 issues of ***Books of Magic,*** I declare that any similarities to *anyone* other than Tim Hunter are purely coincidental!" Gross said. "The fun part for me is reversing what happened to us on ***Books of Magic*** when ***Harry Potter*** came on the scene. In ***The Unwritten,*** the ***Tommy Taylor*** novels have outsold the ***Harry Potter*** ones on a scale the same as how the ***Harry Potter*** outsold ***Books of Magic***. I have to admit, it's much more fun being the best-selling boy wizard of all time... even if it's only fictionally!"

Leaving out the middle man, then: are there similarities between Taylor and Tim Hunter? "Inevitably, yeah, and for the same reasons given above. We probably reference all the previous teen magic-users at one point or another, from Tim Hunter to Christopher Chant by way of Hogwarts, Miss Cackle's Academy, Wizard's Hall and parts South.

"Peter has been working hard to make sure that Tommy doesn't look like a clone of Tim Hunter, but similarities with other characters in the same genre are inevitable. And so is the sense—getting stronger as the series goes on—of a possibly tragic destiny."

Exactly how has Tom Taylor's life suffered because of his father's literary success? "It's been hell for Tom. We've modeled him closely on *Christopher Milne*—the Christopher Robin of the ***Winnie the Pooh*** books—who said later in his life that he felt as though his childhood had been appropriated by his father for his own purposes. Tom feels the same way, and his feelings of being abused are made even worse by the fact that Wilson Taylor disappeared as soon as the last novel was written: he walked out of Tom's life without so much as a nod or a wave—after tying the stupendous fortune he'd made from the books up in a complicated blind trust that Tom couldn't touch. So he gets all the disadvantages of fame without any of the benefits. He hates it, but he can't get away from it."

What leads Taylor to suspect that the Tommy Taylor tales contain an element of truth? "Initially it's just that the actual documentation about his life and his origin seems to be fairly shoddy: most of the documents are inexpertly forged, and there's a sort of web of lies that falls apart when you look at it closely," Carey explained. "Tom believes the real answer is more prosaic—that he might be an orphan, for example, picked up by Wilson as a marketing tool for the books. But he has to prove that, and in doing so he has to deal with this other evidence, which gets scarier and scarier."

Why didn't he realize this earlier? What blocked his memories/awareness of this, and what triggered the reawakening of those memories? "That's a very good question! Tom remembers a normal childhood, so on the face of it he has to be who he says and believes he is. But then, if magic is involved, then you can explain away almost anything. And at the end of the first arc, he finds something that really makes him doubt both his own memories and everything he's ever been told about his past."

If Tom Taylor's fictional story turns out to contain large elements of truth, then is it possible that other literary works are also not fictional at all, but are actually truthful in the same way? Is the border between fiction and reality less defined than we suspect? "I'm going to equivocate on this one, because it's so important to the way that ***The Unwritten*** develops, and to some of the later reveals," Carey said. "We are very definitely exploring this issue—the question of how fictional worlds relate to the real one, and how far reality is itself a thing we make with our imaginations. But I don't want to give the impression that our story is an annex of ***Fables***. We're coming to these questions from an entirely different direction, and the answers that we find have to do with how the human imagination works and what it's for."

And just what happened to Wilson Taylor? Did he truly walk out? Is he gone for good, or will his story intertwine with Tom's once again in the future? "Again, this is one of the things that Tom is investigating, and I don't want to undermine the reveal," Carey said. "There's a lot of evidence from quite early on that Wilson isn't dead—but the question of where he is and what he's been doing all this time is a big and relevant and central one. Will his story

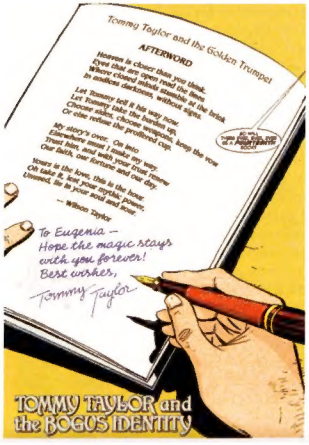
Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

intertwine with Tom's? Probably, but we don't know how or on whose terms."

The solicitations for ***The Unwritten*** refer to other works of literary fantasy and horror; is there a meta-fictional element to the series? "It's very definitely a metafiction, in that it's a story that plays with and references other stories," Carey said. "That's a very big part of what we're doing. It goes beyond horror/fantasy, though: we've got so many great books in there—***Moby Dick, Pride and Prejudice, The Just So Stories***—not to mention some really obscure but fascinating stories like the ***Song of Roland*** and ***Jud Suss***."

"I've already gotten to do something with ***Frankenstein***, and I got to channel my inner *Bernie Wrightson*," Gross said.

The Unwritten seems to depict different visual realities--the reality of the ***Tommy Taylor*** novels and the less fantastic reality of Tom Taylor's life. Are there differences in style or visual tone to each? "I love doing the ***Tommy Taylor*** novel excerpts because I drop right back into my ***Books of Magic*** vibe, but with a twist because we're working prose and text into the comic format to give more a feel that it comes from a book. In the first issue we show an excerpt from a ***Tommy*** book but also a scene from a ***Tommy*** movie, and we had to make them subtly different but still also comics. It's fun and challenging--my two favorite ways of working!



"There are going to be a lot of other Fictions showing up in the book--excerpts from stories by other artists—and it's really interesting coming up with a look for that."

What was the inspiration for the series? "Mike and I started by each writing down a story idea and emailing then to each other," Gross said." I don't know what we were thinking because obviously we were each going to favor our own ideas, right? Mine was a story about a girl whose father wrote the most successful book in history, named the character after her, and left her famous and miserable and wondering why her father put this burden on her. Mike's was about a guy who gets ahold of the celestial trumpet that, when blown, ends one age and ushers in another.

"We read them, and waited to see who would be the first to blink. But whether out of politeness or inspiration Mike jokingly said, 'too bad we can't combine them.' Later that night it hit me that we *could* combine them--and I sent Mike an email about a bunch of ways that was possible. And being the brilliant writer that he is Mike came right back with agreement and a ton more ideas and we were off and running. I honestly can't remember how we got to realizing the main character should be a take-off from Tim Hunter and the boy-wizard archetype but it made perfect sense and led to a whole bunch of other great ideas. There's been a lot of synchronicity in the creation of this series."

"A whole lot of ideas I had and a whole lot of ideas Peter had collided with each other and exploded—so in that sense there isn't any one inspiration," Carey added. "Christopher Robin was an important anchor point for me from very early on, but when we were coming up with this pitch we talked about Hindu scripture, the Oz books, what happens when parents read aloud to their kids, early sound recordings and incunabula, all sorts of stuff."

The solicitations for ***The Unwritten #1*** not only refer to the metafictional elements, but also to "a conspiracy theory a la ***The Da Vinci Code***"; so what is the essence of that conspiracy, and how far beyond Tom Taylor's life—both real and literary—does it extend? "That's the other dimension to the book, and it reveals itself more slowly," Carey said. "This is a story about the way all the important texts ever written—and before that, all the important stories told orally—are bound together in some sense. The Unwritten are a cabal, very old and very far-reaching, who for reasons that we don't initially guess are Tom Taylor's enemies and want him harmed or destroyed. But that's only a means to an end, really. Their *real* agenda is insanely ambitious: they're after a sort of power that no Bond villain ever dreamed of."

MY NAME IS LIZZIE HEXAM, AND I'M STUDYING MEDIA AT KING'S COLLEGE.
MY QUESTION IS--
--WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT? I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW YOU.
COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC?
CERTAINLY. THESE PHOTOS--FROM THE TOMMY TAYLOR COMPANION--ARE MEANT TO BE OF YOU AT AGE THREE.
BUT ACTUALLY THEY SHOW ANOTHER BOY.
THE SON OF YOUR FATHER'S THEN SECRETARY, ELENA PASQUALE.
WELL, THAT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY. RIGHT? THERE ARE A LOT OF KIDS THERE.
I GUESS SOMEONE JUST MADE A MISTAKE WITH THE IDENTIFICATION IS ALL...

Is ***The Unwritten*** an ongoing series, or is it a longform project with a predetermined end, along the lines of ***Sandman, Preacher, 100 Bullets***, or ***Y—The Last Man?*** "It has an ending—and we know exactly what that has to be," Carey said. "We're just hoping to have the luxury, as we did with ***Lucifer***, of playing the story out to its full length and getting to that ending when it's right and fitting. There's a lot that has to happen along the way. That's always the structure I'm happiest with, if I'm honest: something that's open but finite, and stops when it's played out its own logic to the hilt."

Unlike other books where the artist comes on board once the series is fully developed, *Peter Gross* is "every bit as involved in the creation of ***The Unwritten*** as I am," Carey said. "We did this together, every step of the way. It actually arose in the first place from a desire to team up again on another book, because we haven't done so much as a page together since ***Lucifer*** wrapped, and we had a great creative partnership going on that book. So it was always going to be me writing and Peter penciling—and both of us plotting. We may use other artists on one-shots, which was a formula that worked very well on ***Lucifer*** and allowed us to do some very cool riffs, but we're the core team and will continue to be the core team for as long as the book lasts."

Vertigo is so confident in the appeal of ***The Unwritten #1*** that they're offering the extra-length first issue at a bargain $1 price; that's got to come across as quite a vote of confidence for the creative team and their project. "It's been amazing," Gross said. "We realized that if we wanted this book to do well we'd have to put a lot of effort into marketing it. We came up with a bunch of ideas, but I have to say that the $1 issue instantly trumped all of them. I've been getting a lot of feedback from retailers who are extremely happy with what they've seen of the book and also that they can sell the first 32 pages of story for a buck. It's almost like Free Comic Book Day! One retailer told me that he's going to get this book in the hands of every ***Harry Potter*** reader (over the age of 17) who comes in the store."

"It's great that the book is generating such a lot of interest, and even excitement, before it's come out," Carey added.

"I've worked on a few well received books in my time, but the reaction to the ***Unwritten*** from every source so far has been amazing," Gross continued. "The people at DC have been raving about it to us, the writers we asked for quotes have given us wonderful lines. It's the sort of book that those who've read it instantly want to give it to someone else to read and find out what they thought. I think this is a really special book and hopefully readers will jump on board from the start."

Can Carey and Gross keep ***The Unwritten*** coming out on a monthly basis? "Exhibit A: ***Lucifer***, from issue 5 through to issue 75. Six years without a slipped deadline!" Carey said. "At the moment we feel inspired and obsessed and constantly drawn back to Tom's story even when we're meant to be doing other things. It's dominating our lives, and we keep thinking of new elaborations, new parts of the story that we want to include. So yeah, keeping it coming won't be a problem. Keeping our mouths shut about some of the later revelations is the problem..."

"I've got a couple of artist helping out with backgrounds and production (kudos to Barb and Evan!)," Gross said, "and without them I wouldn't have a prayer of making it--but *with* them, there's just barely a prayer. But we've gotten a good start and should have five or six issues done before #1 comes out, so we'll be good for a while."

The Unwritten #1, a forty-page $1 comic, is scheduled for May 13th release.

by Cliff Biggers

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The following comics and comics-related books are tentatively slated for release on the dates given, based on the latest information provided by the publishers at press-time; if no date is listed, the books are tentatively scheduled for release sometime in the month of May. Note that, because of the Memorial Day holiday, books will arrive on Thursday, May 28th, rather than Wednesday, May 27th.

At the request of many retailers, fans, and publishers, we offer Diamond Comic Distributors' code numbers after the publisher's name for each item to make it easy for stores to special-order items for you, should they not be a part of your comic shop's standard order.

1001 ARABIAN NIGHTS ADVENTURES OF SINBAD #13 Zenescope MAR094513 $2.99

2000 AD #1634 5/6 Rebellion MAR094402 $4.50

2000 AD #1635 5/13 Rebellion MAR094403 $4.50

2000 AD #1636 5/20 Rebellion MAR094404 $4.50

2000 AD #1637 Rebellion MAR094405 $4.50

7 GHOST GN VOL 3 5/6 GoComi FEB094297 $10.99

86'ERS TOUCHDOWN TP 5/20 Rebellion MAR094407 $20.99

A DISTANT NEIGHBORHOOD GN VOL 1 Fanfare MAR094248 $23.00

ACHEWOOD HC VOL 2: WORST SONG PLAYED 5/20 Dark Horse JAN090074 $14.95

ACTION COMICS #877 5/13 DC MAR090141 $2.99

AGENTS OF ATLAS #4 5/6 Marvel MAR092545 $2.99

AGENTS OF ATLAS #5 5/20 Marvel MAR092546 $2.99

AIR #9 5/20 Vertigo/DC MAR090230 $2.99

ALIAS ULTIMATE COLLECTION TP BOOK 1 5/6 Marvel MAR092663 $34.99

ALIENS #1 (OF 4) 5/28 Dark Horse FEB090010 $3.50

Relaunching the comics franchise based on the hit Fox SF films

ALL NEW SAVAGE SHE-HULK #2 (OF 4) 5/13 Marvel MAR092570 $3.99

ALTER EGO #85 5/13 TwoMorrows MAR094514 $6.95

Focusing on the Captain Marvel/Superman battles (in cosmic space, in candy stores, and in court)

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #583 4TH PTG JOE QUESADA SIGNED DFE MAR094232 $69.99

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #583 4TH PTG TODD NAUCK SIGNED DFE MAR094231 $14.99

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #593 5/6 Marvel MAR092527 $2.99

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #594 5/13 Marvel MAR092528 $2.99

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #595 5/20 Marvel MAR092529 $2.99

Spider-Man prepares to take down Norman Osborn in "American Son," a Dark Reign tie-in

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN FAMILY #6 5/20 Marvel MAR092525 $4.99

AMAZON #3 (OF 3) 5/13 Dark Horse MAR090052 $3.50

AMBER ATOMS #4 5/28 Image MAR092443 $3.50

ANGEL #21 IDW MAR094310 $3.99

ANGEL: BLOOD AND TRENCHES #3 IDW MAR094313 $3.99

ANGEL: NOT FADE AWAY #1 IDW MAR094315 $3.99

Joss Whedon, Jeffrey Bell, & Scott Tipton adapt final episode of Joss Whedon's beloved Angel television series in a three-part miniseries

ANITA BLAKE LAUGHING CORPSE: NECROMANCER #2 (OF 5) 5/20 Marvel MAR092507 $3.99

AP HOW TO DRAW MANGA: NEXT GENERATION PKT MANGA TP VOL 1 Antarctic FEB094034 $12.95

APPLEGEEKS TP VOL 1: FRESHMAN YEAR 5/28 Dark Horse JAN090073 $14.95

ARCHIE #597 5/28 Archie MAR094066 $2.50

ARCHIE & FRIENDS #131 5/6 Archie FEB094049 $2.50

ARCHIE DIGEST #254 5/20 Archie MAR094067 $2.69

ARCHIE'S PALS N GALS DOUBLE DIGEST #131 5/6 Archie FEB094057 $3.99

ARMAGEDDON NOW: JADA 5/20 Image MAR092409 $3.99

ARMY OF DARKNESS #22 Dynamite MAR094184 $3.50

ASTONISHING TALES #4 5/6 Marvel MAR092555 $3.99

ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #16 5/28 Image MAR092444 $2.99

ASTRO BOY MOVIE PREQUEL: UNDERGROUND #1 IDW MAR094306 $3.99

Astro Boy explores a strange subterranean kingdom in search of his lost father, encountering weird creatures

ASTRO CITY: THE DARK AGE BOOK THREE #1 (OF 4) 5/6 WildStorm/DC MAR090206 $3.99

Kurt Busiek & Brent Anderson take readers back to the early 1980s - a time of darkness and danger, the era of the Point Man, the Omega Rangers and others. And for Charles and Royal Williams, it's a time for revenge as their pursuit of the man who killed their parents takes Royal deep into the bowels of the PYRAMID organization while Charles reaches heights he never imagined.

ATOMIC ROBO: SHADOW FROM BEYOND TIME #2 (OF 5) 5/20 Red 5 MAR094409 $3.50

AUTHORITY #10 5/6 WildStorm/DC MAR090207 $2.99

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AVENGERS/INVADERS #11 (OF 12) 5/28 Marvel MAR092557 $2.99

AWAKEN FOREST GN 5/6 Digital Manga MAR094208 $12.95

AWESOME 2 TP AWESOMER Top Shelf MAR094431 $14.95

AZRAEL: DEATH'S DARK KNIGHT #3 (OF 3) 5/13 DC MAR090136 $2.99

B ICHI GN VOL 3 5/13 Yen MAR094493 $10.99

BACK ISSUE #34 5/20 TwoMorrows MAR094515 $6.95

Spotlighting the story of Adam Warlock and the behind-the-scenes history of the revolutionary Miracleman, as well as an interview with Jim Shooter

BAKEGYAMON GN VOL 2 5/6 Viz FEB094520 $7.99

BAMBOO BLADE TP VOL 1 5/13 Yen MAR094494 $10.99

BANG TANGO #4 (OF 6) 5/6 Vertigo/DC MAR090231 $2.99

BART SIMPSON: SON OF HOMER TP Bongo MAR094124 $15.99

BATMAN BLACK & WHITE STATUE—BRUCE TIMM 5/13 DC Direct OCT080246 $75.00

BATMAN CONFIDENTIAL #29 5/13 DC MAR090138 $2.99

BATMAN IN BARCELONA: DRAGON'S KNIGHT 5/28 DC MAR090139 $3.99

Mark Waid & Spanish art sensation Diego Olmos present an out-of-continuity adventure that takes Batman to Barcelona

BATMAN SYMBOL MINI NEON SIGN 5/20 DC Direct OCT080263 $89.99

BATMAN TRINITY POSTER 5/13 DC Direct OCT080249 $7.99

BATMAN: BATTLE FOR THE COWL #3 (OF 3) 5/20 DC MAR090132 $3.99

With the destruction of Arkham Asylum, the return of the Black Mask, and dozens of Gotham City's most lethal villains rioting through the streets, Nightwing, Robin and their allies seem to have their hands full. But when you add a deadly Jason Todd masquerading as a gun-toting Batman to the mix, things have definitely spiraled out of control! This is the issue everyone's been waiting for as Tony Daniel reveals who wins the Battle for the Cowl!

BATMAN: BATTLE FOR THE COWL—THE NETWORK #1 5/6 DC MAR090134 $2.99

A wave of heroes arrive in Gotham City in this one-shot with hopes of helping stem the tide of chaos threatening to overwhelm everybody! Starring Huntress, Batgirl, Misfit, Ragman, Manhunter and many others

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BATMAN: SCARECROW AND TWO FACE YEAR ONE TP 5/13 DC FEB090200 $19.99

BATMAN: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #5 5/28 Johnny DC MAR090198 $2.50

BATMAN: THE RESURRECTION OF RAS AL GHUL TP 5/6 DC FEB090202 $19.99

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA: FINAL FIVE #3 (OF 4) Dynamite MAR094185 $3.99

BAYOU TP VOL 1 5/28 Zuda/DC FEB090231 $14.99

Jeremy Love presents a tale of racism and violence in 1930s Mississippi

BERSERK TP VOL 29 5/28 Dark Horse JAN090139 $13.95

BEST OF VAMPIRELLA TP VOL 4: REVELATIONS Anarchy MAR094049 $24.95

BETTY & VERONICA DIGEST #194 5/13 Archie MAR094071 $2.69

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BLACK PANTHER 2 #4 5/13 Marvel MAR092547 $2.99

BLACK PANTHER HC: WHO IS BLACK PANTHER? 5/20 Marvel MAR092655 $19.99

BLOOD PLUS ADAGIO GN VOL 1 5/6 Dark Horse JAN090138 $10.95

BLOODRAYNE: PRIME CUTS #4 Digital Webbing MAR094216 $3.99

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BODY GN VOL 5 5/6 Viz FEB094500 $8.99

BOMB QUEEN PRESENTS ALL GIRL COMICS 5/28 Image MAR092468 $3.50

BONEYARD #28 (OF 28) NBM MAR094375 $3.50

Richard Moore presents the series finale of this offbeat human interest horror-humor series

BOOSTER GOLD #20 5/13 DC MAR090147 $2.99

BOOSTER GOLD: 52 PICK UP TP 5/20 DC FEB090201 $14.99

BORIS KARLOFF TALES OF MYSTERY ARCHIVES HC VOL 1 5/13 Dark Horse JAN090085 $49.95

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BOYS: HEROGASM #1 Dynamite MAR094165 $2.99

Garth Ennis & John McCrea kick off a Boys look at superhero event storylines with this miniseries that brings togther the Seven, Payback, Teenage Kix, Fanstico, and every other supe on Earth

BPRD BLACK GODDESS #5 (OF 5) 5/13 Dark Horse MAR090018 $2.99

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BRAN DOLL GN 5/6 GoComi FEB094298 $10.99

BRAVE AND THE BOLD #23 5/20 DC MAR090148 $2.99

BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD TP VOL 3 5/13 Dark Horse JAN090141 $9.95

BRILLIANT BLUE GN VOL 1 (OF 2) 5/6 Digital Manga MAR094206 $12.95

BROKEN TRINITY TP 5/28 Image MAR092483 $14.99

BTVS SEASON 8 TP VOL 4: TIME OF YOUR LIFE 5/6 Dark Horse JAN090114 $15.95

BUCK ROGERS #0 Dynamite MAR094162 $0.25

Scott Beatty & Carlos Rafael launch an all-new series starring the first man out of time, the hero of the 25th Century—Buck Rogers! And this special 25¢ issue launches the ominous arc with "The Death of Buck Rogers"

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER #25 5/6 Dark Horse MAR090016 $2.99

CABLE #14 5/6 Marvel MAR092600 $2.99

For the first time, Cable's been separated from the girl he's sworn to raise and protect - Hope, the so-called 'Mutant Messiah' - and now she's in the hands of his greatest enemy! Meanwhile, X-Force, sent by Cyclops on a desperate rescue mission to the deep future, scrambles to find their way out of a trap that will kill them in matter of hours

CABLE PREMIERE HC VOL 2: BACK TO EARTH 5/13 Marvel MAR092631 $19.99

CAPED #3 (OF 4) Boom MAR094132 $3.99

CAPTAIN ACTION COMICS #5 Moonstone MAR094369 $3.99

CAPTAIN AMERICA #50 5/20 Marvel MAR092559 $3.99

CAPTAIN AMERICA #50 JOE SIMON SIGNED DFE MAR094237 $89.99

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Japan's Super Young Team wants nothing more than to be seen as heroes in the eyes of their adoring public. Unfortunately, their adventures during Final Crisis have gone unnoticed, and they've been reduced to performing at public appearances and on various TV shows literally dancing for their livelihood. But the appearance of a new American teammate and a deadly threat complicates the motives of the team as they try and find what truly makes somebody not just a hero, but a sensational hero

FINAL CRISIS AFTERMATH: ESCAPE #1 (OF 6) 5/13 DC MAR090129 $2.99

Nemesis awakens to find himself held captive by the World Peace Agency inside the walls of the mysterious Electric City. His fellow prisoners are all members of the superhuman intelligence community, and they're subjected to systematic torture in an attempt to siphon the secrets of the DC Universe heroes in an effort to destroy them. As Nemesis works to escape, he finds few people he can truly trust

FINAL CRISIS AFTERMATH: INK #1 (OF 2) 5/28 DC MAR090131 $2.99

In the wake of Final Crisis, the Tattooed Man is considered a hero for the first time in his life. At first, the rewards from his new lifestyle are a welcome change from the rest of what his existence has been, but soon the pressure to stay above temptation and evil start to wear him down

FINAL CRISIS AFTERMATH: RUN #1 (OF 6) 5/6 DC MAR090128 $2.99

After the events of Final Crisis, the HUman Flame realizes all the heroes in the DC Universe target him as the lowlife who taped the murder of the Martian Manhunter with his cell phone. On top of that, all the villains in the world want to kill him for selling them out to Libra. He's powerless and penniless, and his only chance for survival is to run!

FINAL CRISIS: LEGION OF THREE WORLDS #4 (OF 5) 5/13 DC OCT080095 $3.99

A great hero falls and another returns to help Superman and the Legion combat the murderous Superboy-Prime! Meanwhile, the Time Trapper makes his move against the three Legion founders as the series by Geoff Johns & George Perez continues

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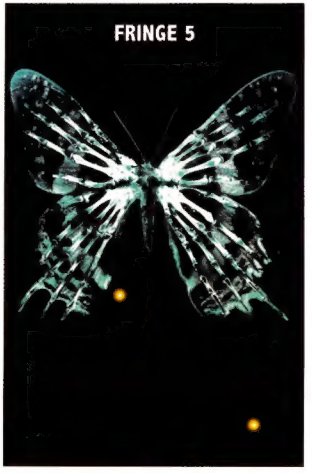

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In a world where the years passed in real-time for the X-Men since their foundation, the newest crop of students at Xavier's are the children and grandchildren of the heroes we know. But with all the trouble Becka Monroe, Pavel Rasputin, Olivier Raven and company got into last time, they're not sure they want to go back to school.

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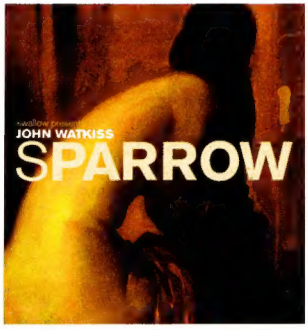

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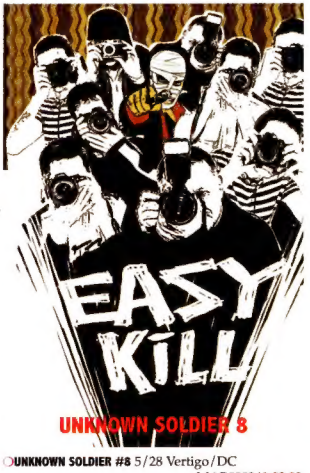

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